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The University Geological Survey of Kansas. Vol. IV. Paleontology. Part I. Upper Cretaceous. SAMUEL W. WILLISTON, Paleontologist. Topeka, 1898.

It is with much interest that we examine this work on the paleontology of Kansas. Professor Williston and his associates have made a successful effort to produce a work of popular as well as scientific value. The effort is worthy of commendation. The manner in which the subjects are presented cannot fail to make the book useful in many places where a purely scientific work would be of little value.

Professor Williston reviews the work on Birds, Dinosaurs, and Crocodiles; but the most interesting and instructive part of his work is the monograph on the Mosasaurs. While his work is primarily with the Kansas Mosasaurs, he does not confine his study to these, but briefly and concisely covers the whole subject. Here, especially, he has been successful in keeping the interest alive.

The monograph opens with a brief historical summary of the Mosasaurs — their discovery and the publications concerning them. This is followed by their range, distribution, and classification. He refers to the controversies over the relations of these reptiles, and arrives at the conclusion from his own study, that they are entitled to be classed as “an independent group among the *Lacertilia*.” In this connection he quotes the classification proposed by Dr. Baur. The greater part of the monograph is devoted to a careful anatomical comparison and description of these interesting reptiles, many of which the author originally discovered and described. No pains have been spared to make the work complete and useful.

In his systematic descriptions Professor Williston points out a number of facts of popular, as well as scientific interest. The Mosasaurs are described as “varying in length between five and forty feet,” a decided reduction in size from the Mosasaurs of the text-books, which are given a maximum length of 100 feet. Another fact which seems to have escaped the notice of former collectors is the deformation of the bones undergone in the process of fossilization, especially in the Niobrara formation. The bones have yielded as if made of plastic material. The deformation has furnished the characters upon which many new species have been based. The author concludes that this will cut out about four fifths of the species that have hitherto been described.

The turtles are described by Professor Williston and Professor E. C. Case, and the microscopic organisms by C. E. McClung.

Mr. W. N. Logan who has done much toward giving us a clear conception of the stratigraphic relations of the Upper Cretaceous, presents an excellent discussion of the invertebrates of the Benton, Niobrara, and Fort Pierre groups. He not only reviews the species hitherto described, but adds the descriptions of many new ones which he has found. His work is admirably arranged, and the species so tabulated, that the whole forms a convenient paper of reference. It is to be hoped that much more work of this kind may soon be done in the great Interior Cretaceous region, that a more definite knowledge of its rich invertebrate fauna may be available.

W. T. LEE.